Telephone Exchanges in the Country

2435. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of telephone exchanges in the country functioning at present;

(b) the number of state of art telephone exchanges;

(c) the number of conventional and oldest telephone exchanges requiring to be phased out but have not been phased out so far; and

(d) the number of state of art telephone exchanges working in the remotest part of the country with details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As in October, 2006, total 38044 number of Telephone exchnages are working in the country.

(b) All the telephone exchanges working in the country are Digital Electronic Exchanges and based on the state of art technologies.

(c) All Manual, Analogue and Electro Mechanical Telephone Exchanges have already been replaced by Digital Electronic Exchanges.

(d) At present no Telephone Exchange is being categorized as Remotest. However, as in October, 2006 total numbers of 29051 Rural Exchanges are working in the Country.

Surrendering of Landline Phones

2436. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of landline phone subscribers have been surrendering their phones throughout the country, if so, the details of the phones surrendered during the current calendar year in Delhi and other Metros, the details, month-wise;

(b) the number of the new subscribers during the same period, the details, month-wise; and